7: Shklovsky -- 217-218 T-3 (1891-92) 1916 Yakut
116, 135, 325

"On the banks of the Aldan, near Yakutsk, iron ore is present in great quantities, and enormous blocks [218] of it found on the surface of the earth are sold in the town for a trifling sum. The Yakuts smelt iron in the same way as did the ancient Greeks. They place the ore in the fireplace and pile coal round it, maintaining the heat of the fire by means of hand bellows. When the carbon is burnt away, they break up the masses of slag, and the metal they find they work with hammers. Of the iron are made the hunting-knives famous in that region. No attempt is made to mine the earth for the rich reserves of iron which are undoubtedly there."

9: Stadling--85-86 E-3 (1898) 1901. Yakut
116, 135, 311

"The greater part of the immense region of Yakutsk is still a 'terra incerta et incognita. Thousands upon thousands of square miles where the wild animals and the Tunguses roam have as yet never been trodden by the feet of [86] civilised man. To judge from the comparatively limited regions more or less explored, it is probable that great natural resources are to be found in the forests and in the mountains by the explorers of the future. Besides the gold-fields on the river adds vitim and Olekma, which have been worked since 1840, both gold and silver have been found on the river Aldan and elsewhere. Rich iron ore has been discovered in several places, and in the middle and northern parts of Yakutsk there is plenty of coal. The Lena and some of its tributaries yield precious stones of various kinds, and the existence of malachite and graphite has also been ascertained in more than one spot."

11: Lansdell--295 M-3 (1879) 1882 Yakut
116, 135

"The chief mineral product is gold, which has frequently to be procured from frozen ground. The valleys of the Vitim and Olekma especially are rich in this mineral. In the valley of the Vitim, about 200 versts from its mouth, are quarries of mica, from which the whole of Siberia was formerly supplied with a substitute for window-glass. Mr. Erman procured plates of brown mica from one to two feet square. As, however, I saw glass used everywhere, I presume that the demand for mica must have diminished greatly."

28: Grigoriev N-5 (1925) 1926 Yakut
135

[LSS: For data on mineral resources of the Yakutsk Region, see category 134, pp. 172 ff. and category 133, pp. 186 ff.]

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HS /230 cont./ At this station we met the
439 Kolýmsk merchant, Michaíl Páwlowitsch Bereshnów, with his
484 whole caravan, a very interesting encounter for us. These
492 merchants spend part of the year, usually from July to the end of October in Jakutsk /Yakutsk/, where they buy all their supplies, European and colonial goods, flour, and in general everything that is needed in Kolýmsk but is not to be had there, in order then, with the opening up of the winter route, /231/ to transport all these commodities to Kolýmsk. They use pack horses exclusively for this and also ride themselves; the richer merchants have 100-200 heavily laden animals with them, all of the previously described sturdy breed covered with thick hair, which defies the climate here. Since the few settlements and official post stations could not, of course, readily provide the fodder required for such a number of horses, these traders, who for the most part go back and forth over the route annually throughout their lives, have depots all along the way, which are supplied with the necessary hay by the natives living nearby. Despite the cold, which is frightful for a European, these trips go on in winter, because the route is easier then and, if I am not mistaken, is also
HS shorter than in summer, for the many swamps and basins of water,
[132] being frozen, present no hindrance; nevertheless the trips take months, with a temperature of -30° to 40° R., and sometimes even more. All these merchants are more or less well-to-do, many very rich, even according to European conceptions -- they also transport mammoth tusks and furs from the north to Jakutsk /Yakutsk/, which likewise bring them rich profits -- nevertheless these trips are an absolute necessity for them, one which they would be as loath to do without as, say, a European capitalist his
y annual trip to a watering place -- de gustibus non disputandum est.
● 135 We learned a number of things here concerning the range on which we found ourselves, which unfortunately the season of the year prevented us from investigating in more detail. What mineral treasures might lie here and whether they could ever be brought out is a question for the future. Very rich silver ores are also found here, about 30 versts from our route, which, however,

/231 cont./

135 are practically unexploited, at most in a primitive fashion and only occasionally by one or /232/ another of the Jakuten /Yakut/. A Russian mining engineer is said to have explored the region years ago and reported that mining would not pay, because the ore deposits lie in a waterless and woodless region. That would hardly be an obstacle in America.

122 At the cozy fire of the Jakut fireplace we enjoyed the
[369] hospitality of Mr. Bereshnów and his traveling companions, who hastened to serve us all kinds of things that we had not seen for many a long day -- they had come from the capital, Jakutsk /Yakutsk/, which among the inhabitants of the Jakuten country plays just such a role as St. Petersburg or Moscow does for European Russians. It is simply the ideal of the greatest possible comfort, fashion, and culture. We were able to express our gratitude only by presenting some articles from our traveling household that we could now dispense with, particularly some enameled iron plates, which were still unknown to the gentlemen and aroused their great admiration as being most practical. /The last paragraph of p. 232 and pp. 233-236 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text./

/237/ Eleventh Chapter

Northern virgin forest. -- Water flowing with the mercury frozen. -- G. F. Ssolowjów. -- Smallpox epidemic. -- Jakut /Yakut/ post station. -- Arrival in Jakutsk /Yakutsk/. -- The governor. -- Bishop Dionýssij. -- The trade of Jakutsk. -- Furs. -- The climate and agriculture. -- History of same and statistical data. -- The classic Progymnasium and other points of interest. -- Industry of the Jakuten /Yakut/. -- Return journey.

122 We left our comfortable night's lodging as early as possible
137 on the morning of December 3. The route led us down the valley of the Tukulána through a magnificent forest, more beautiful than any we had ever seen. The eye of the traveler coming from the north is delighted here for the first time by enormously high and